

Inventors: Blum, Roger, et al.

Serial No.: 10/624,192

Filed: July 21, 2003

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Remarks

Claims 1 and 12-28 are pending. Claims 12, 13, 15, 18, 24 and 26-28 are under examination. New claim 29 has been added. Claims 1, 12, 14, 15-25 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Upon entry of the amendment claims 13 and 26-29 will be pending and under examination.

Claim 13 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to more clearly recite the claimed invention without changing the claim's scope.

Claim 29 has been added to replace cancelled claim 18. Support for claim 29 can be found, for example, in original claim 18.

Accordingly, these amendments and new claims do not raise an issue of new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully submitted to be proper because the amendments are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, respectfully is traversed. This rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 13, which now recites that the enzyme "when stored" shows no loss or less than 20% loss of activity after prolonged storage. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Regarding 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 12, 15, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,774,673, ("Young") is respectfully traversed for the reasons already made of record. This rejection has now been rendered moot by cancellation of the rejected claims without prejudice.

Regarding 35 U.S.C. §103

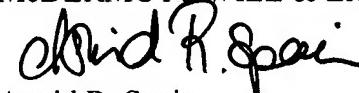
The rejection of claims 12, 15, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young is respectfully traversed for the reasons already made of record. This rejection has now been rendered moot by cancellation of the rejected claims without prejudice.

Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks herein, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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